[31st October 1931

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) An extract of the report obtained from the President, District Board, North Arcot, is given below:—

"The old connecting road consists of many sharp curves. The road width is only that of a third-class road (in many places barely 30 to 33 feet in width). Even if this road is taken up, a realignment will have to be made to avoid the sharp curves and also to acquire lands on either side for forming the full width for a trunk road. There are also avenue trees planted on both sides, the rows being not far apart to admit of a trunk road being formed. One line of avenue trees will have to be cut down. Further the line passes within the home signal limits of the Tiruvalam Railway Station which would mean that the gates will be closed for long periods when the train has been signalled, or, worse still, when goods trains stop at the station and shunting operations take place. There are also a large number of road dips which will have to be converted into culverts if this alignment is to be decided on. The proposed new alignment will be 2 miles 3 furlongs shorter in length than the existing road. This also means less cost in the shape of bridges and culverts to be constructed and savings in the maintenance cost."

(*c*) The relative cost of the alternative routes has not yet been worked out in detail but from the investigation made so far, it is reported that the cost of the formation of the new road would be much less than the cost of improvements to the existing road.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether, in view of the answer to clause (*d*), it would not be advisable to incur the slightly extra cost of repairing the old road rather than constructing a new road?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"That aspect will be considered when the question is decided."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Am I to understand that no definite opinion has been formed on the question?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"It is still pending with the District Board and we are awaiting their report and suggestions."

Memorial from the villagers of Kandimallayya Palli for conversion of certain foot-paths into metalled roads.

* 381 *Q.*—Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any monster petition from the villagers of Kandimallayya Palli through the trustees of the Mutt of His Holiness Jagadguru Pothuloori Veerabrahmendra Swamulu

31st October 1931]

Varu that the foot-paths from Nandyalampet to Jangammaraju Palli and from Manney Palli to Kandimallayya Palli may be converted to public metal roads;

(b) whether the Engineer of the District Board, Cuddapah, sent any report supporting this request; and

(c) what orders the Government passed thereon?

A.—(a) No such petition has been received by Government.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Medical

Rewards to Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Agency tracts.

* 382 Q.—Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) how many Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons now serving in the Agency tracts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam districts are Oriyas or persons who have learnt Oriya and received rewards from Government;

(b) how the knowledge of Oriya on the part of non-Oriya Sub-Assistant Surgeons is tested; and

(c) what the reward offered is?

A.—(a) There are no Oriya Assistant or Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Agency tracts at present. There are two non-Oriya Sub-Assistant Surgeons who have passed the colloquial examination in Oriya and received rewards.

(b) Candidates for the colloquial examination in Oriya are required to show ability to express themselves clearly and to understand readily what is said to them on some topic connected with the duties they have to perform, so as to afford proof that they are competent to conduct such duties without the aid of an interpreter.

(c) Rs. 250.

Staff employed in the office of the Surgeon-General.

* 383 Q.—Rao Sahib B. Venkataramayya: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the staff employed in the office of the Surgeon-General and also state the number of men drafted from Andhra Desa and from other linguistic areas?

A.—A statement[a] furnishing the information is laid on the table of the House.

Motor Vehicles Taxation

Representation regarding the burden of provincial taxation and licence fees on buses and lorries.

* 384 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representations have been made to Government regarding the burden of provincial taxation and excessive licence fees charged by certain local bodies on buses and lorries; and

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 332 infra.